

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: REPORTED TRIALS OF SOVIET JEWS

1. JERRY GOODMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY, INFORMED DEPARTMENT BY PHONE TODAY THAT AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS ARE CONCERNED TO LEARN OF REPORTS OF A SERIES OF TRIALS THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION IN THE LAST TEN DAYS OF SOVIET JEWS WHO HAD INTENDED TO EMIGRATE. GOODMAN CITED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC CASES:

A. PETR PINKHASOV, A CARPENTER IN DERBENT, DAGESTAN, ASR, REPORTEDLY WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES. HIS WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE, HOWEVER ACCORDING TO GOODMAN'S SOURCES, WHEN PINKHASOV REFUSED WILLINGLY TO REMAIN IN THE SOVIET UNION HE WAS TRIED FOR HAVING MADE PERSONAL GAINS FROM HIS PROFESSION THROUGH PRIVATE CARPENTRY SERVICES.

B. ALEXANDR FELDMAN WAS REPORTEDLY TRIED IN KIEV FOR "MALICIOUS HOOLIGANISM" WITH A POTENTIAL SENTENCE OF 1-5
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YEARS. FELDMAN HAD APPLIED FOR AN EXIT VISA AS EARLY AS 1971

NOTICE OF THIS TRIAL APPEARED IN A KIEV EVENING PAPER.

C. ALEXANDR LEVINSON IS REPORTEDLY BEING TRIED UNDER THE PARASITE LAW IN BENDERY, MOLDAVIA SSR. LEVINSON APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION IN 1972.

D. REPORTEDLY THERE ARE SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN MOSCOW WHO ARE AWAITING TRIAL FOR ALLEGED CONSPIRACY IN SMUGGLING DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL.

3. GOODMAN HAS RECEIVED OTHER, LESS SPECIFIC REPORTS INDICATING THAT A CAMPAIGN COULD BE UNDERWAY LARGELY OUTSIDE THE BIG SOVIET CITIES TO DISCOURAGE EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED DISCREETLY TO DETERMINE ACCURACY GOODMAN'S REPORTS AND COMMENT. KISSINGER

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